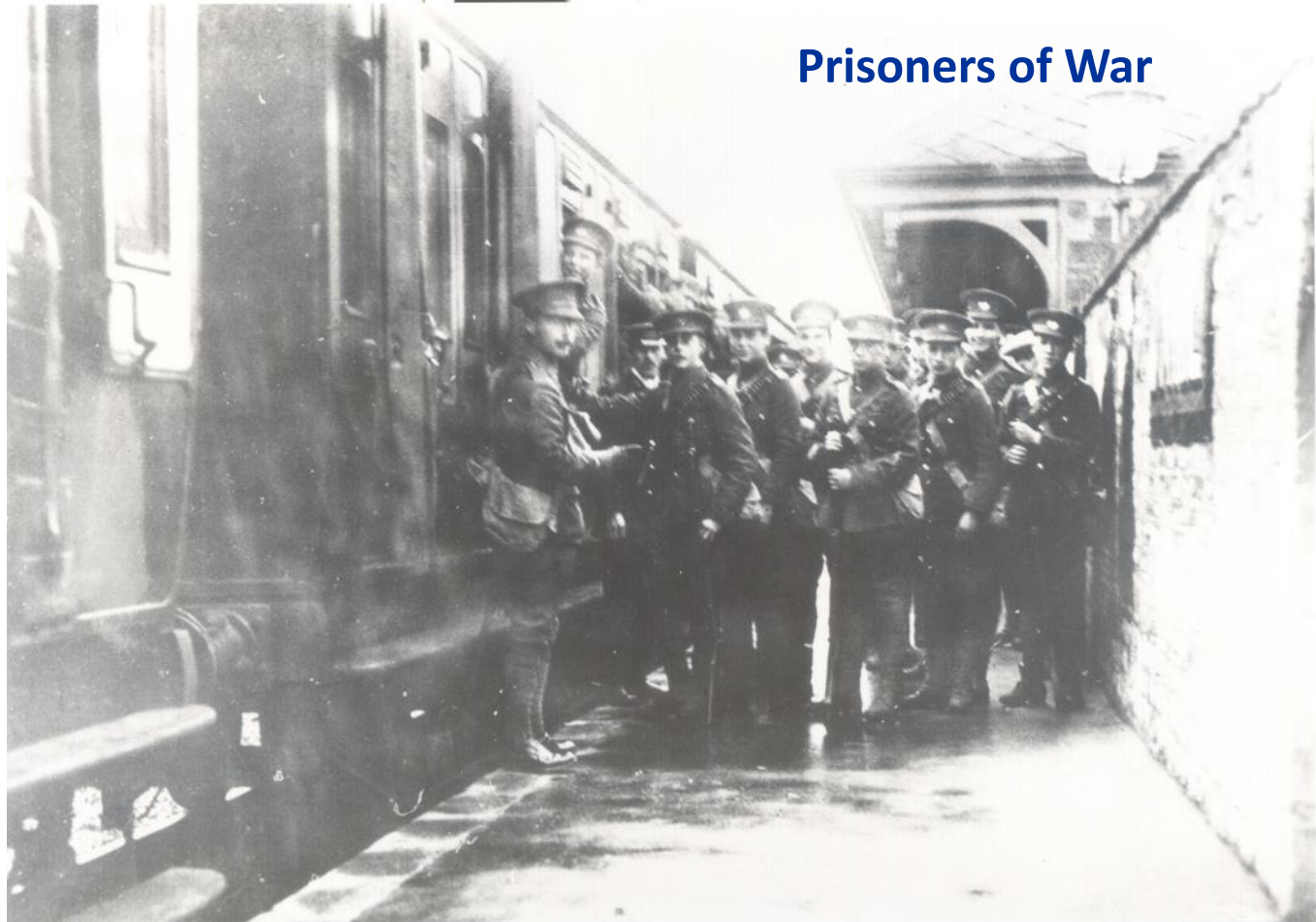


Prisoners of War



Men of Oundle Leaving for War. From Peterborough Museum (CG127)

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Visit us at the Museum

Prisoners of War during WW1

"We are German by birth, but have been detained as prisoners of war, we will be guiding you through the theme of Prisoners of War during WW1:

We did not sign the visitors' books, our experience of the station was very different to the British soldiers passing through, but there are a few entries in the books, written by British nationals who became prisoners of war at different points during their service. It is thought that up to 192,000 British and Commonwealth citizens were taken captive as POWs during WW1, from a total of 10 million servicemen and civilians across the globe.

The conditions in camps were often unsanitary and many outbreaks of typhus are documented in this period, forced labour was also commonplace. Many died, but many were released or liberated as the conflict drew to a close, and were able to return home to their families.

The term internment camp might come up in this section, and it can refer to camps where a country is neutral in the conflict, but it can also have various other meanings."

SOURCES:

Using the sources provided on the following pages you can conduct your own research on the theme of POWs during the WW1.

For some questions you may want to look at the website: www.peterboroughww1.co.uk



German Prisoners at Peterborough, 1916. From Peterborough Archives & Local Studies

Related Themes:

POW (Prisoners of War), Internment, Neutrality, Living Conditions, Food, Clothing, Family, Home, Red Cross, Refugees, Entertainment, The Geneva Convention.



Prisoners of War during WW1



German Prisoners at Peterborough, 1916. From Peterborough Archives & Local Studies

SOURCES:

The source on this page relates to German Prisoners of War, and includes:

1. A Photograph

QUESTIONS:

- Why do you think German Prisoners of War would have been in Peterborough?
- How do you think the local people would have reacted to seeing them at the station?
- Where do you think they were going to?

WEBSITE TASK:

- Visit the Discover More section on the website, and go to 'The History of the East Railway Station'
- The term 'Repatriated' means to send someone back to their own country, Which port were the German Prisoners of War 'repatriated' from after the war?

Prisoners of War during WW1

SOURCES:

The sources on this page relate to John Bonshor, they include:

1. A Photograph
2. A Photograph
3. POW Death Record
4. War Diary Extract

WEBSITE TASK:

- Search for John Bonshor on the website, read his entry. What is a coronet?
- Can you find out who wrote the poem he quotes from?

QUESTIONS:

- Why do you think St Peters Training College closed in 1914?
- Why would women have taken the place of the men after this time?
- What happened on the 21st March 1918?
- In the War Diary extract, O.R. Refers to Other Ranks, what do you think this means?
- Look at the German document, how many words can you recognise?
- Where is Bonshor commemorated?



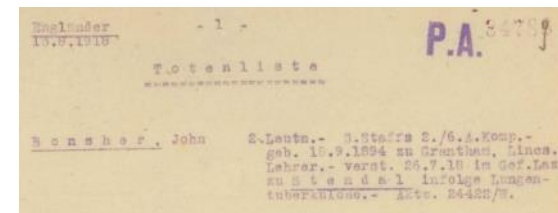
Plaque, Peterscourt, Peterborough,
From Hannah Saunders



Commemorative Plaque, Peterborough Cathedral, From Hannah Saunders

Heavy enemy shelling of back areas commenced between 2. & 3.30 a.m. also heavy bombardment by enemy of front & support line with H.E. and Gas Shells from 3.30 a.m. - 5.30 a.m. Enemy attacked in massed formation at 9.30 a.m. and succeeded in capturing the front line and also effected a flank move and got through to Railway Reserve and Battalion Headquarters. 23 Officers & about 300 O.R. are missing, including Lt. Col. J. Stuart Montagu, Capt. C.E.L. Whitehouse, (Adjutant), Capt. W.A. Adam, Capt. W.A. Jordan, Capt. T.L. Astbury & Capt. W.B. Lynes (Company Commanders). The following Officers are missing: Lieut. W.T. Butler, Lieut. R.G. Boxcott, Lieut. L.J. Shelton, 2/Lieut. H.P. Dunn, 2/Lt. R.M. Shilton, 2/Lt. H.W. Gregory, 2/Lt. J.A. Gwynon, 2/Lt. R. Baxter, 2/Lt. E.W. Snider, 2/Lt. C. Haworth, 2/Lt. J.R. Hickman, 2/Lt. T.A. Gough, 2/Lt. G.A. Yates, 2/Lt. J. Bonshor, 2/Lt. J. Rigby, 2/Lt. H.M. Jones & Capt. W.M. Christie. R.A.M.C. The Q.M. Stores and Transport moved from Dyserth Camp at 5.30 p.m. by march route via Coucellles-les-Comptes to DUNKERQUE where they bivouached.

Extract from War Diary, 21/3/1918, From Ancestry

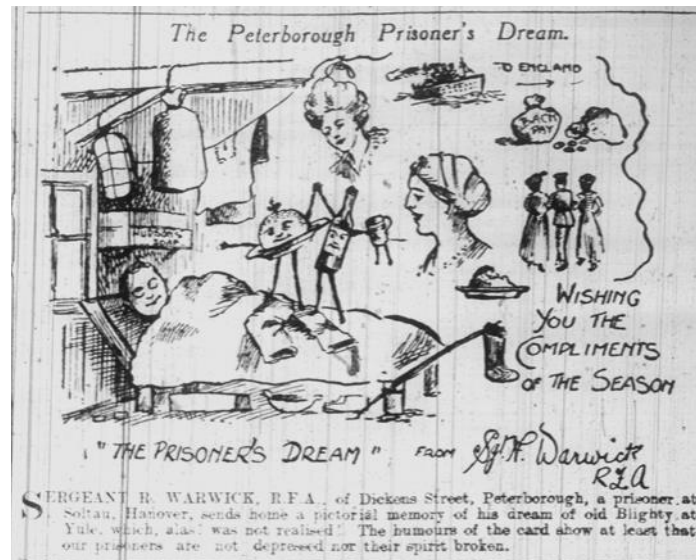


POW Death Record, From Ancestry

Prisoners of War during WW1



From Peterborough Advertiser, 6/1/1917



From Peterborough Advertiser, 13/1/1917



From Peterborough Advertiser, 27/1/1917

SOURCES:

The sources on this page relate to POW Camps, they include:

1. An Article
2. An Article
3. An Article

QUESTIONS:

- Why did prisoners receive wellington boots?
- What did the prisoners miss about home?
- Why would they have made a magazine?

WEBSITE TASK:

- Go on google maps or search online to find out where the camps mentioned in the sources were.